

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

**The NIEHS advances our understanding of the fundamental interrelationship between human health and the environment. It is, therefore, a core value of the Institute to preserve and protect the environment. This will be proactively demonstrated by our continuing commitment to environmental stewardship through pollution prevention, resource conservation, and sustainable development of facilities and programs.**

## I. Purpose and Policy.

**Purpose:** This policy establishes general goals and guiding principles for a commitment to environmental responsibility. Through implementation of this policy, the NIEHS will strive to be a leader in the advancement of environmental stewardship within our programs, facilities, and the community.

**Policy:** The NIEHS mission is to reduce the burden of environmentally associated disease and dysfunction by defining how environmental exposures affect our health, how individuals differ in their susceptibility to these exposures, and how these susceptibilities change over time. In keeping with this mission and to preserve the rights of future generations, the Institute affirms its commitment to environmental excellence and actively promotes the public's right to a healthy, quality environment. The NIEHS will strive to integrate environmental responsibility in its decision-making at all levels and in the conduct of all Institute programs and practices.

## II. General Goals and Guiding Principles

- A. *Compliance with Environmental Requirements.* The NIEHS is committed to exceeding all applicable Federal, state and local environmental laws, statutes and regulations. Where existing laws and regulations are not adequate to ensure protection of public health or the environment, we will establish and meet our own environmental quality standards.
- B. *Environmentally Responsible Planning and Design Principles.* The NIEHS, in conjunction with appropriate NIH offices, will assess the environmental implications in the development, construction, and operation of campus infrastructure, grounds, and buildings. To the extent practical, planning and designs for the maintenance and development of campus facilities will promote environmental sustainability through the efficient use and conservation of resources, landscaping and grounds maintenance practices that are compatible with the local environment, and modes of transportation that minimize environmental impact.
- C. *Built Environment.* The NIEHS will seek to integrate the development and operation of campus infrastructure, grounds and buildings with the natural environment in ways that promote and encourage public health, employee wellness, and quality of work-life.
- D. *Pollution Prevention.* The NIEHS will minimize solid waste generation and the potential release of pollutants into the environment first through source reduction, secondarily through reuse and recycling, and finally through treatment and disposal.



- E. *Hazardous Waste and Toxic Materials.* The NIEHS will actively strive to minimize the generation of hazardous wastes. The Institute will maintain policies and processes for the safe and efficient use, tracking, storage, and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials.
- F. *Commitment to Environmental Education and Awareness.* The NIEHS recognizes the value of on-going education and awareness of all employees and on-site contractors concerning the importance of environmental responsibility in all phases of Institute operations. Further, the Institute is committed to provide relevant and accurate information on the Institute's environmental performance to the public.
- G. *Environmentally Responsible Purchasing Decisions.* The NIEHS recognizes that environmental responsibility can be exercised through its purchasing choices. Accordingly, the Institute will strive to obtain the "best value" by balancing short and long-term costs, including consideration of the environmental, life cycle, and maintenance costs in purchasing products and services.
- H. *Efficient Use and Conservation of Energy, Water, and Other Resources.* The NIEHS will strive to reduce resource consumption by eliminating wasteful practices and promoting efficient use, and by evaluating and implementing feasible and practical conservation measures in existing buildings, renovations, and new construction.

### III. Implementation and Review

The Office of Management, Health and Safety Branch, in coordination with the NIH Office of Research Facilities shall be responsible for administering and monitoring this policy through implementation of an Environmental Management System. All NIEHS employees and staff are expected to support the Institute's effort to meet the goals of this policy and are encouraged to offer comments and suggestions for improvement. The Health and Safety Branch will coordinate an annual review of this policy statement and develop recommendations for improvements and updates as needed.

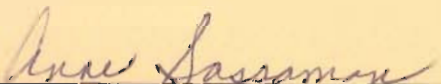
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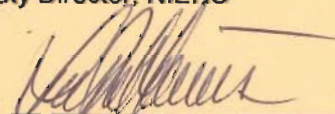
David Schwartz, MD  
Director, NIEHS



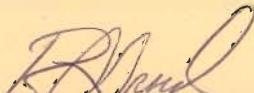
Samuel Wilson, MD  
Deputy Director, NIEHS




Anne Sassaman, PhD  
Director, DERT, NIEHS



Lutz Birnbaumer, PhD  
Director, DIR, NIEHS



Richard Freed, MSB  
Associate Director for Management, NIEHS



Allen Dearry, PhD  
Director, DRCPT, NIEHS